

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 NRC-05

OES-03 ERDA-05 AID-05 /115 W  
----- 125250

R 210550Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9371

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8188

THE FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT OF BOMBAY

1508 SENT ACTION

NEW DELHI DTD 20 JUN 75

QUOTE:

BOMBAY 1508

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) BOMBAY 1360; B) NEW DELHI 7627

1. IN COURSE OF APPROXIMATE HOUR-LONG TALK WITH IAEC CHAIRMAN  
SETHNA THIS MORNING 20TH, FOLLOWING POINTS WERE TOUCHED UPON AFTER  
DISPOSHAPIASTP MISSION ITEM.

2. R-5 REACTOR TROMBAY. I ASKED SETHNA ABOUT THE ITEM THAT  
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APPEARED IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS ON JUNE 10 TO THE EFFECT THAT INDIA'S

FIFTH NUCLEAR REACTOR, THE R-5 WOULD BE READY BY 1978, THAT IT WOULD MAINLY PRODUCE PLUTONIUM FOR SPECIAL NEEDS", AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE PURVIEW OF ANY OUTSIDE AGENCY. SETHNA CHARACTERIZED THIS PRESS STORY AS "NONSENSE" AND "RUBBISH". HE SAID THAT THE R-5 RESEARCH REACTOR THEY ARE CONSTRUCTING AT THE BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER AT TROMBAY IS AN INDIGENOUS REACTOR AND WILL BE USED FOR TWO PURPOSES: FIRST TO PRODUCE THE ISOTOPE TECHNICIUM 99 FOR MEDICAL USE. SECOND, AND PRIMARILY, THE REACTOR WILL BE USED TO DO RESEARCH IN FUELS INCLUDING FUEL DESIGNS WITH THE RAJASTHAN, MADRAS AND NARORA (NEAR ALIGARD) REACTORS IN MIND. THE REACTOR IS NOT INTENDED HE STRESSED TO PRODUCE PLUTONIUM AS ALLEGED IN THE PRESS ARTICLE. HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THE STORY HAD COME FROM OR WHAT IT WAS BASED ON.

3. WEST GERMAN SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO BRASIL. SUBJECT OF TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY CAME UP. WHILE REITERATING IN CATEGORICAL TERMS THAT INDIA IS NOT GOING TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO OTHER COUNTRIES, SETHNA WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW LONG THIS POSITION WOULD LAST. HE REFERRED TO THE RECENT WEST GERMAN SALE TO ZAFIL AND SAID IF THIS SORT OF THING WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE PRESSURE WOULD INEVITABLY MOUNT IN INDIA AND IN PARLIAMENT PARTICULARLY TO SELL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AS WELL. HE ASKED WHO IS GOING TO DISCIPLINE THIS SORT OF THING. HE SAID INDIA HAD EARLIER TURNED DOWN BRAZILIAN REQUEST FOR NUCLEAR FUEL FABRICATION AND REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AS IT HAD TURNED DOWN SIMILAR ARGENTINE AND EGYPTIAN REQUESTS AS WELL. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE US AND UK HAD BID ON BRAZILIAN DEAL AND THAT US HAD LOST OUT, SINCE ITS BID HIGHER, HIS POINT BEING THAT US PREPARED TO DO SAME THING AS GERMANY ONLY ITS BID WAS TOO HIGH. I SAID THAT WHILE I HAD NO INFORMATION AS REGARDS THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR DEAL EXCEPT PRESS STORIES, I THOUGHT THIS IMPRESSION OF THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD IT WAS INCORRECT. HE SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION THAT WE MIGHT CARE TO PASS ALONG TO HIM ON THIS SCORE. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, WE COULD APPRECIATE THE PROBLEM AND THE PRESSURES FOR INDIA. COMMENT: I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONVEY TO SETHNA IN THIS REGARD.

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4. IAEA MONITORING SYSTEMS. SETHNA SAID THAT IAEA HAD NOW WITHDRAWN EARLIER REQUEST INTRODUCE MONITORING SYSTEM INTO SPENT FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT AT TARAPUR (PARA 7 REFTEL). HE REITERATED THAT HE AGREEABLE TO INTRODUCTION PROVIDED IT DONE WITHIN TIMEFRAME ACCEPTABLE TO THEM AND SO AS NOT TO DELAY START-UP. HE DID NOT KNOW BASIS FOR DECISION. WENT ON TO SAY HE STILL WAITING TO HEAR WHAT IAEA INTENDED DO ABOUT MONITORING SYSTEM IF WISHED INTRODUCE INTO RAJASTHAN II. ADDED THAT HE STILL WAITING

FOR CONTRACT TO MEASURE PLUTONIUM IN FUEL BUNDLES AT TRAPUR FOR USAEC AND IAEA (PARA 9 REFTEL).

6. NARORA REACTOR. THE NARORA REACTOR, SETHNA SAID, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE EARLY 1980'S WILL CONSTITUTE AN ALMOST TOTAL MODIFICATION OF THE ORIGINAL CANADIAN REACTOR, RAJASTHAN I, A PROCESS WHICH HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT IN RAJASTHAN II, MADRAS AND CARRIED TO ITS ULTIMATE IN THE NARORA REACTOR. WHILE CANADIAN PRINCIPLE OR SYSTEM REMAINS UNCHANGED, THE PLANT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY MODIFIED TO SUIT INDIAN CONDITIONS. POST-NARORA PLANTS WILL FOLLOW THE NARORA PATTERN EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT REFINEMENTS ARE MADE. HE ANTICIPATES THAT THEY WILL LIKELY JUMP FROM THE 235 MW REACTOR LEVEL AT NARORA TO THE 500 MW LEVEL IN THE NEXT PLANT PROJECTED FOR WESTERN INDIA. HE NOTED HOWEVER, THAT BUDGETARY CUTS MADE IT DIFFICULT TO MOVE AHEAD AS RAPIDLY AS HE WISHED.

6. PRE-LICENSE CHECKS ON EXPORTS TO ATOMIC ENERGY ESTABLISHMENT. SETHNA SAID THAT DUE TO HIS ABSENCE THIS PAST WEEK HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO RESPOND AS YET TO MY REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFO ON ITEMS REFTEL B (SATES 132732). HE SAID HE WOULD BE WRITING TO ME ABOUT THE HAFNIUM ORDER BUT THAT AS YET HIS AGENCY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY ORDER HAVING BEEN PLACED BY IT FOR THE TWO INTERACTIVE DISPLAY TERMINALS CITED REFTEL B. THEY WILL CONTINUE SEARCH HOWEVER, AND WILL BE REPLYING SHORTLY. BANE

UNQUOTE.  
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

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